
**AFTER-FIELD REPORT: CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF
APPROXIMATELY 54 ACRES FOR THE SAN DIEGO SECTOR BORDER WALL
PROTOTYPE, U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, SAN DIEGO COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA**

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ABSTRACT

SPONSOR: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

PROJECT NAME/NUMBER: San Diego Sector (SDC) Border Wall Prototype Cultural Resources Survey, Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) Project No. 80335101g

LAND STATUS: CBP; General Services Administration (GSA)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: On August 23, 2017, GSRC conducted a cultural resources inventory of an approximately 54-acre project area. The project area consists of a proposed entry and potential staging area, access and egress roads, the area between the primary and secondary fences, and the SDC Border Wall Prototype construction area. A GSRC archaeologist walked transects across the 54-acre project area using parallel transects spaced 20 meters apart or perpendicular to the existing all-weather border road. The purpose of this investigation was to locate, evaluate, and record all cultural resources (prehistoric archaeological sites and historic properties/structures) within the project area, and to make recommendations of eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for any identified resources.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project area is located west of the Otay Mesa Land Port-of-Entry (LPOE). The proposed project area is located within Section 36 of Township 18 South, Range 1 West, and Sections 31 and 32, Township 18 South, Range 1 East (map reference: Otay Mesa, California, USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangles).

TOTAL AREA SURVEYED: 54 acres

COMMENTS: GSRC conducted a cultural resources survey of the approximately 54-acre study area. Several features were noted, but are currently believed to be modern based on construction materials and context. Several possible isolated finds were also observed, but may be modern in nature and require additional, albeit brief study. The records search is pending. Results of the records search will be provided in the Draft Technical Report along with descriptions of artifacts or possible artifacts.

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INTRODUCTION

Project Background

CBP intends to construct a border wall prototype, along with associated staging areas, access, and egress (Figure 1). The purpose of the cultural resources investigation was to identify previously recorded archaeological sites, to locate, evaluate, and record previous or newly identified cultural resources in proximity to the proposed project area and to make recommendations of eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for any identified resources.

Environmental Setting

The proposed San Diego Sector (SDC) Border Wall Prototype construction road, staging areas, and access roads are located within Section 36 of Township 18 South, Range 1 West, and Sections 31 and 32, Township 18 South, Range 1 East (map reference: Otay Mesa, California, U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle). The project area is located east of the Otay Mesa Land Port-of-Entry (LPOE) with elevation ranging from 476 to 558 feet above mean sea level (amsl).

Cultural Setting

Detailed discussions of the local cultural history of southern San Diego County can be found in Moratto (1984) and more recently in Neusius and Gross (2007). The major cultural trends in southern California are outlined briefly below.

Several researchers still assert the presence of “early man,” or pre-Clovis, sites during the late Pleistocene, but the evidence for these sites is tenuous at best and most researchers disregard these claims. The earliest uncontested evidence of securely dated human occupation in southern California can be attributed to the San Dieguito complex, which dates from 10,000 to 11,000 years ago (Warren 1967). The material cultural traits of San Dieguito are distinguished by scrapers, leaf-shaped bifaces, crescents, graters, choppers, and hammerstones (Rogers 1939). Features associated with San Dieguito complex sites include cleared circles (i.e., sleeping circles), trail shrines, and rock alignments. San Dieguito is generally contemporaneous with Paleoindian complexes identified elsewhere.

The La Jolla complex, or Milling Stone horizon, began approximately 9,000 to 7,000 years ago and is traditionally viewed as following the San Dieguito complex. The La Jolla complex is part of the Encinitas tradition, which is generally equivalent to the Early Archaic elsewhere. This period is distinguished primarily by the presence of milling tools such as manos and basin metates, often associated with shell middens (Moratto 1984). “Crude” choppers, scrapers, and projectile points (e.g., Pinto and Elko series) are the characteristic lithics of the La Jolla complex (Moriarty 1966). Some researchers contend that the La Jolla Complex represents a migration of desert people from the east who adapted readily to their new environment, supplanting the earlier San Dieguito (Warren et al. 1961). Others argue that the La Jolla Complex simply developed out of the earlier San Dieguito groups (Kaldenberg 1976, Moriarty 1966). More recent research, however, argues that differences between the La Jolla and San Dieguito artifact assemblages represent functional differences, rather than temporal or cultural distinctions (Bull 1987,

Gallegos 1987). In other words, artifact assemblages are more characteristic of location and resources exploited in those areas and therefore reflect coastal adaptations.

The Late Prehistoric period began approximately 1,200 to 600 years ago with the migration of the Shoshone and Yuman peoples into the area. The San Luis Rey complex is prevalent in northern San Diego County and is a Shoshonean predecessor of the Luiseño, while the Cuyamaca complex is found in what is now southern San Diego County. The Cuyamaca are Late Prehistoric ancestors of the Kumeyaay. The Late Prehistoric is characterized by small triangular projectile points, such as Cottonwood and Desert Side-notched varieties, imported lithic raw materials, milling implements with the addition of mortars and pestles, *Olivella* beads, and pottery. The Late Prehistoric Kumeyaay, or Cuyamaca, appear to have subsisted on a wider range of resources than earlier populations, possibly reflected in the greater variety of artifacts associated with these groups.

A complete records search from the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) database is pending. The information presented above will be updated accordingly after review of existing records. The Draft Technical Report will contain a detailed discussion of previous research, previous investigations, and known cultural resources within the vicinity of the project area.

Preliminary Survey Results

GSRC Archaeologist (b) (6) inventoried the project area by inspecting the ground surface of the proposed 54-acre project area and immediate surroundings using parallel transects spaced 20 meters apart on August 23, 2017. No archaeological sites or historic properties were identified during the pedestrian archaeological survey. Several features were observed, such as a drainage channel and storm drain (Photograph 1). The drainage feature is believed to be modern in nature and origin (i.e., within the last 10 to 20 years). A fragment of a ceramic roof tile was also noted within the 10-acre staging area (GSA lot) (Photograph 2), but appears to be displaced, along with other refuse, and is likely modern (Figure 2). In addition, two possible pieces of lithic debitage were also noted (Photographs 3 and 4). However, both items are located between the primary fence and the all-weather road to the north, and within an area that has been subject to significant earth-moving activities (e.g., blading, grading, leveling). It is likely that the “artifacts” were created through pressure of heavy equipment (e.g., bulldozer or grater) traveling over the ground surface.

Summary

In the absence of significant or notable cultural resources, no additional archaeological investigation is anticipated beyond completion of the complete Draft and Final Technical Reports. No cultural resources are likely to be adversely affected by the proposed construction or related activities.

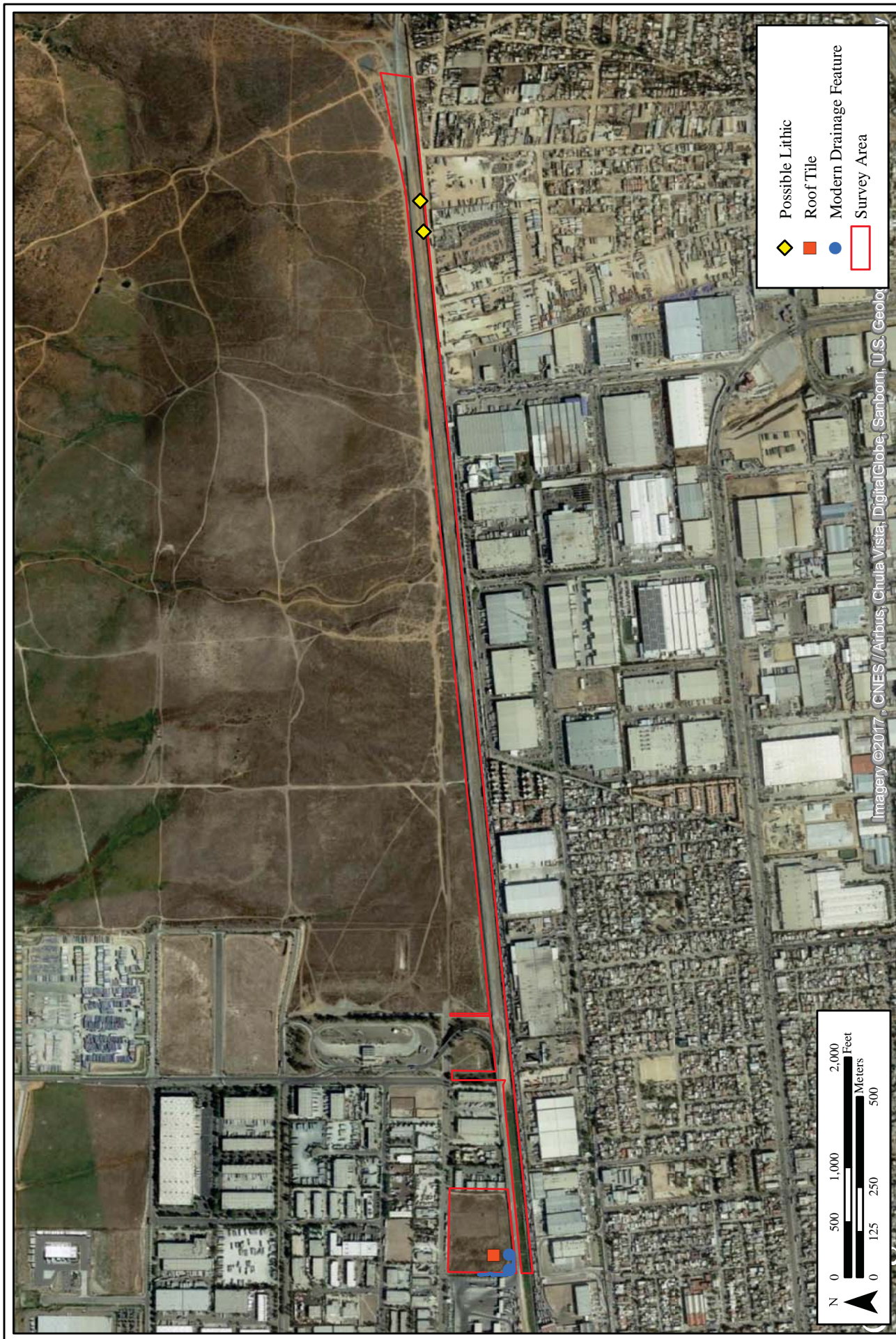


Figure 2. Project area and results of cultural resources survey.



Photograph 1. Modern drainage feature in the southwest corner of the GSA lot.



Photograph 2. Ceramic roof tile fragment in GSA lot.



Photograph 3. Possible secondary flake.



Photograph 4. Possible core fragment.

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